

Senate File 480 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 480
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 353)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act requesting the establishment of an interim committee
2 to study the feasibility of allowing a day of virtual
3 instruction to count as a minimum school day when inclement
4 weather causes schools to close.
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE — VIRTUAL INSTRUCTIONAL
2 DAYS.

3 1. The legislative council is requested to establish an
4 interim study committee to study and make recommendations
5 relating to the feasibility of allowing school districts
6 and accredited nonpublic schools to count a day of virtual
7 instruction as a minimum school day when inclement weather
8 causes schools to close and instructional staff and students
9 engage in curriculum-aligned instructional and learning
10 opportunities from home.

11 2. The study committee shall review and provide an analysis
12 of the following:

13 a. School districts or accredited nonpublic schools in Iowa
14 currently offering virtual instructional days.

15 b. Authorization of virtual instructional days by other
16 states.

17 c. Potential barriers to allowing school districts and
18 accredited schools to count virtual instructional days as
19 minimum school days to avoid extending the school calendar.

20 d. Opportunities to overcome the barriers identified under
21 paragraph "c" without need for new state funding.

22 e. Potential impacts and barriers relating to the use of
23 technology to offer virtual instructional days by students for
24 classes and other scheduled school-related academic activities,
25 including but not limited to use by students who are limited
26 English proficient, children requiring special education,
27 students enrolled in advanced placement courses and concurrent
28 enrollment courses, and other nontraditional students for
29 nonstandard classes.

30 f. Best practices for utilizing virtual instructional days
31 as minimum school days.

32 3. The study committee may review and provide an analysis of
33 other potential solutions for successfully providing student
34 instruction on a day when inclement weather causes schools to
35 close.

1 4. The study committee shall submit a report with its
2 analysis, findings, and recommendations to the general assembly
3 by December 20, 2019.

4 EXPLANATION

5 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
6 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

7 This bill requests the legislative council to establish
8 an interim study committee to study and make recommendations
9 relating to the feasibility of allowing school districts
10 and accredited nonpublic schools to count a day of virtual
11 instruction as a minimum school day when inclement weather
12 causes schools to close and instructional staff and students
13 engage in curriculum-aligned instructional and learning
14 opportunities from home.

15 The study committee shall review and provide an analysis
16 of school districts or accredited nonpublic schools in Iowa
17 currently offering virtual instructional days; authorization of
18 virtual instructional days by other states; potential barriers
19 to allowing virtual instructional days to be counted as minimum
20 school days; opportunities to overcome such barriers without
21 need for new state funding; potential impacts and barriers
22 relating to the use of technology under virtual instructional
23 days by students who are limited English proficient, children
24 requiring special education, students enrolled in advanced
25 placement courses and concurrent enrollment courses, and other
26 nontraditional students for nonstandard classes; and best
27 practices for utilizing virtual instructional days as minimum
28 school days.

29 The study committee may review and provide an analysis of
30 other potential solutions for successfully providing student
31 instruction on a day when inclement weather causes schools to
32 close.

33 The study committee shall submit a report with its analysis,
34 findings, and recommendations to the general assembly by
35 December 20, 2019.